

HOUSE BILL 2585
By Hagood

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49 and Title 68, relative to fire safety in certain facilities.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-11-202(b)(4), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(A) Until the board adopts building and fire safety regulations pursuant to this section, the codes and regulations in effect on July 1, 1981, shall be applicable to those facilities licensed under this part. Except as provided in subdivision (B), any facility which complies with the required applicable building and fire safety regulations at the time the board adopts new codes or regulations will, so long as such compliance is maintained (either with or without waivers of specific provisions), be considered to be in compliance with the requirements of the new codes or regulations.

(B) On and after July 1, 2008, every facility licensed as a nursing home under this chapter shall utilize a sprinkler system as an automatic fire suppression system that conforms to the building and fire safety codes applicable to newly constructed facilities pursuant to rule. Such nursing homes shall also have doors rated at a one hour capacity for resident rooms.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 7, Part 1, is amended by adding a new section thereto, as follows:

Section 49-7-129. On and after July 1, 2008, every student housing facility in the state university and community college system and the University of Tennessee shall utilize a sprinkler system as an automatic fire suppression system that conforms to the building and fire safety codes then applicable to newly constructed facilities that contain

multi-families. Such student housing facilities shall also have doors rated at a one hour capacity for resident rooms.

SECTION 4. Any excess funds from any board, commission, council or other governmental entity attached to the division of regulatory boards or the division of health related boards on July 1 of each year shall be diverted for the purpose of implementing the provisions of this act. Such excess funds shall be directed to those facilities the office of state fire marshal and the commissioner of commerce and insurance determine to be in greatest need thereof. Excess funds shall be those funds that are more than the amount needed to fund the operations of the board, commission, council or other governmental entity for the upcoming fiscal year.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004, the public welfare requiring it.